

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (previously presented) A coin cleaning device for separating foreign objects from a mass of coins inserted into the device, said device comprising

coin receiving means into which a batch of coins may be inserted,

an elongate tray assembly, an inlet end of the tray assembly being so arranged as to receive coins from said coin receiving means,

a vibration means connected to said tray assembly and so arranged to cause coins on the tray assembly to travel along the tray assembly in the direction away from said inlet end,

the tray assembly comprising an upper shelf and a lower shelf which are substantially horizontal,

said upper shelf comprising a first upper shelf portion and a second upper shelf portion, said first upper shelf portion being disposed towards said inlet end, and said second upper shelf portion being disposed away from said inlet end,

said first upper shelf portion being perforated by apertures of transverse dimensions smaller than a predetermined minimum diameter of coins to be handled by the device, whereby some foreign matter of transverse dimensions smaller than said perforations can fall through said perforations of said first upper shelf portion,

said second upper shelf portion being formed with coin receiving apertures of transverse dimensions larger than a predetermined maximum diameter of coins to be handled by the device,

whereby coins which travel from on top of said first upper shelf portion to said second upper shelf portion fall through said coin receiving apertures, said lower shelf extending beneath said second upper shelf portion and being provided with perforations of transverse dimensions smaller than said pre-determined minimum diameter of coins whereby any foreign objects which are associated with coins that tumble through said apertures of said second upper shelf portion can pass through said lower shelf, as the coins are conveyed along said lower shelf,

a downstream end of said lower shelf, and
a coin outlet positioned to receive coins from said downstream end of said lower shelf.

2. (previously presented) A device as in claim 17 comprising an additional shelf portion in said coin outlet, said additional shelf portion being perforated with apertures of transverse dimensions smaller than said minimum coin diameter.

3. (previously presented) A device as in claim 17 comprising a large object collection means positioned to collect any objects that are sufficiently large as not to fall through said apertures of said second upper shelf portion.

4. (original) A device as in claim 3 wherein said large object collection means comprises a chute which is open to the downstream end of said second upper tray portion and extends downwards to a bin.

5. (original) A device as claimed in claim 4 in which said bin is a reject cup of a coin sorter.

6. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 17 wherein said upper shelf is in the form of a self-contained upper tray, and
said lower shelf is in the form of a self-contained lower tray, and wherein
said upper tray is spaced from said lower tray by a plurality of rigid spacers, each spacer being associated with a respective releasable fastener, the arrangement being such that when the fasteners are in a secured condition the upper tray is rigidly connected to the lower tray by said spacers and fasteners, and when the fasteners are released the upper tray is removable from the lower tray.

7. (original) A device as in claim 6 wherein said associated spacers and fasteners are located substantially at opposite ends of said upper tray.

8. (original) A device as in claim 7 wherein the combined mass of said spacers and fasteners at said inlet end of the tray assembly is chosen relative to the combined mass of the spacers and fasteners of the downstream end, whereby coins become more spaced-apart as they proceed along said upper and lower trays.

9. (original) A device as claimed in claim 8 wherein said spacers at the downstream end comprise a hollow column having a bore, and the fastener extends through said bore of said column.

10. (original) A device as claimed in claim 8 wherein said spacers at the upstream end are constituted by a single block which extends transversely across the tray assembly and is provided with a plurality of bores, a plurality of laterally-spaced apart fasteners extending through respective bores.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A coin counting machine for providing a value of a batch of coins inserted into the machine, said machine comprising

a machine cabinet,

a hopper housed within said cabinet,

a coin feeder within said cabinet for feeding coins from said hopper,

a coin discriminator housed within said cabinet for discriminating coins fed by said coin feeder, and

a coin value summation means responsive to said coin discriminator for providing a total value of said coins fed by said coin feeder,

wherein said coin counting machine comprises a coin cleaning device as claimed in claim [[18]] 17 housed within said cabinet, said coin outlet of said coin cleaning device being positioned to direct coins into said hopper.

13. (previously presented) A coin counting machine as in claim 12 wherein said first and second shelf portions are portions of an elongate tray assembly.

14. (previously presented) A coin counting machine as claimed in claim 13 wherein said cabinet comprises

a front wall and a rear wall,

said hopper is disposed in said cabinet towards said rear wall, and

said tray assembly is disposed towards said front wall,

said coin outlet of said coin cleaning device being directed substantially transversely of said tray assembly, towards said rear wall.

15. (original) A coin counting machine as claimed in claim 14 wherein said cabinet comprises

a top wall formed with an aperture in a position towards said front wall of said cabinet,

said aperture opening to said first shelf portion of said tray assembly.

16. (currently amended) A method of separating foreign bodies objects from a mass of coins, said method comprising

causing the coins to be vibrated along an upper shelf having a first upper shelf portion provided with perforations of a transverse dimension smaller than a predetermined minimum diameter of coins to be handled and a second upper shelf portion provided with coin receiving apertures of a transverse dimension larger than a predetermined maximum diameter of coins to be handled.

causing the coins to ~~tumble from a downstream end of said upper shelf~~ pass through the coin receiving apertures in the second upper shelf portion onto a lower shelf, said lower shelf also being provided with perforations of a transverse dimension smaller than said predetermined minimum diameter of coins to be handled and being vibrated to cause the coins to travel along said lower shelf portion,

collecting foreign objects that have fallen through said perforations in the first upper shelf portion and the lower shelf, and

collecting coins dispensed from the a downstream end of said lower shelf.

17. (previously presented) A coin cleaning device for separating foreign objects from a mass of coins inserted into the device, said device comprising

a coin receptor,

an elongate tray assembly, an inlet end of the tray assembly being so arranged to receive coins from said coin receptor,

a vibrator connected to said tray assembly,

the tray assembly comprising an upper shelf and a lower shelf which are substantially horizontal,

said upper shelf comprising a first upper shelf portion and a second upper shelf portion, said first upper shelf portion being disposed towards said inlet end, and said second upper shelf portion being disposed away from said inlet end,

said first upper shelf portion being perforated by apertures of transverse dimensions smaller than a predetermined minimum diameter of coins to be handled by the device, whereby some foreign matter of transverse dimensions smaller than said perforations can fall through said perforations of said first upper shelf portion,

said second upper shelf portion being formed with coin receiving apertures of transverse dimensions larger than a predetermined maximum diameter of coins to be handled by the device,

AMENDMENT B

Title: "Separating Foreign Objects from a Mass of Coins"

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said lower shelf extending beneath said second upper shelf portion and being provided with perforations of transverse dimensions smaller than said pre-determined minimum diameter of coins,

a downstream end of said lower shelf, and

a coin outlet positioned to receive coins from said downstream end of said lower shelf.

18. (cancelled)